

Interstate Wireless, Inc.  
D/b/a Handy Page  
841 West Fairmont Drive  
Suite 5  
Tempe, AZ. 85282-3331  
Voice 480-350-9400  
Fax 480-350-9494  
[waynem@handypage.net](mailto:waynem@handypage.net)  
2006

27 June

Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C.  
Hurricane Katrina Panel Recommendations EB Docket No. 06-119 NPRM  
Comments

In response to the report from the Hurricane Katrina Panel, we have comments and suggestions in Two (2) areas that the Panel has cited in their report.

**1. The need for better Emergency Alerts to the General population:**

Currently the General Populace is receiving Emergency alerts primarily by way of Radio, TV and Cable systems over the EAS system. The major drawback there is that the Public HAS to be watching or listening to that station to get the EAS information. And only the AM and FM EAS would provide an alert if the person is mobile.

There is the thought that using the Cellular phone network to put out EAS, SMS or other types of Alerting will solve this problem. There are several drawbacks to that thought because Cellular systems currently cannot Simulcast, or Multi-cast a message to many users at once. The Cellular lobby has stated that if the Government gives them lots of grant money that they might be able to make that type of system work. They are also looking into what ways they can then charge the Government for using the new system to send out each Emergency Alert message.

Then there are the drawbacks of Cellular handsets that need to be re-charged daily, putting them in a standby or off mode, mostly at night, Cellular coverage in rural areas can be spotty, and the SMS service provides only short content messages.

There is however, currently a service that is available throughout a majority of the United States that ALREADY has the capability to provide Instantaneous Emergency Alerts to Thousands of people, all at once, and that is “**PAGING**”.

Paging systems use Simulcast and Multiple sites to provide coverage, thereby providing transmitter redundancy and wide areas of coverage. Most Paging systems are licensed for and use higher transmitted power to cover into dense structures.

Page Two

There are currently hundreds of Paging systems licensed and in operation in the United States, with their services covering areas that cellular, broadcast, and other means of alerts do not cover.

Using a single **Group Call** code, a single short message or multiple long messages can be Multi-cast to thousands of Paging receiver units, all at once within seconds or minutes.

Paging receivers are small and mobile and go where a person goes, they use batteries that last months, not hours. They don't need re-charging. They use a common available battery, which is small enough that you could easily carry a spare if you need to. They are silent until needed. They have capabilities for a Handicapped person to receive alerts, such as vibrator and blinking light alerts. They can provide LARGE amounts of information all at one time, and will save it for any future reference. Even a small, mobile, Alert unit could be manufactured, (see attached photo image), to scan all active area Paging systems and receive Alerts and Information for the average homeowner to use.

What is needed to harness and use this existing capability, **IMMEDIATELY** ???

Just provide a means for the current Paging systems to receive EAS or something similar. Installing an EAS receiver and satellite dish at the location of the Paging system's main terminal unit would allow the system to transmit National, Statewide, or Local Emergency information on that system. The EAS system would need to be able to provide the Alert information in a “data” type format for resending on the Paging system.

## **2. Provide a means to UPGRADE the nation's existing Paging systems.**

In the Katrina report, it was noted that one means of communications worked well, and that was 2-way PAGING. With the latest sets of mergers in the Paging Industry several of the existing 2-way Paging channels have been turned off, and stored away from competitors.

**The 2-way Paging service should be expanded !!!**

Page Three

Why not help the current 1-way Paging systems upgrade their systems to a 2-way Paging and Messaging service. All that would be needed to start this process is to provide a frequency for the One-way Paging systems to use as a "Talk back" channel for the Paging user's 2-way pager unit. The availability of additional 2-way Paging systems would go a long way to providing the General Public, and Public Safety users with much needed mobile communications and information capability, especially during emergency situations.

### **How the Government can help ???**

The Government might be interested to find that most operators of the Nations 1-way Paging systems would be willing to purchase and install EAS equipment on their systems, and broadcast Emergency Alerts, at no charge to the General Public, in exchange, for the Government providing them a 2-way "Talk Back" channel and allowing them to UPGRADE their current systems to 2-way Paging capability.

This would be a Win-Win situation for the entire Nation, by advancing Homeland Security with the immediate capability of providing Emergency Alerts to the General Populace, and also getting the additional capabilities of working 2-way Paging and Messaging systems.

Wayne Markis  
President  
Interstate Wireless, Inc.  
Handy Page

(Attached photo of an example of a Home Alerting unit)

